

# Voice of the DRAGON

2nd Quarter 2011, Issue #8



The official quarterly newsletter for Soldiers, civilians and families of 36th Signal Battalion serving in the Republic of Korea



## EAGLE STRIKE II DCS TRANSFORMATION

Battalion skiers participate in Dragon Freeze II at the High 1 Ski Resort

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**BATTALION RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY CDR, 19TH ESC.**

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**HHD SPENDS TIME WITH CANINE MILITARY POLICE UNIT**

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**PHYSICAL READINESS TRAINING PHASES INTO THE BATTALION**

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## 2011 ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF CAMPAIGN







# 2ND QUARTER 2011



*36th Signal Battalion is recognized with a plaque from Brig. Gen. Tom A. Harvey, Commander of 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC), for providing exceptional C4IS support to the ROK-US Alliance, Area IV community and 19th ESC. This was only the second award that Brig. Gen. Harvey presented to a unit since taking command in September 2009.*



## VOICE OF THE DRAGON

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# DRAGON'S CORNER

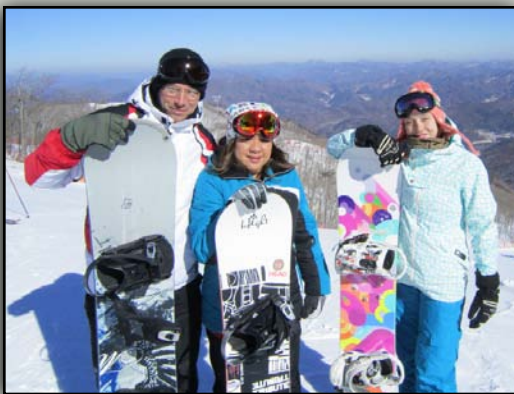


Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein, 36th Signal Battalion, Battalion Commander  
Camp Walker, Daegu



**Mark Rosenstein**  
Lt. Col., Signal Corps  
Commanding

Team Dragon, this is my final newsletter before I change command in June. Serving as Commander of such a magnificent organization is the single-most memorable experience I have had since enlisting in the Army. I've learned so much from all of you, and many who have already departed. Thank you for your loyalty and dedication to the battalion. Over the last quarter you performed exceptionally well, achieving remarkable results while simultaneously contributing to the success of 1st Signal Brigade and our local military and Korean communities (Soldiers and civilians alike). Your determination and the commitment of your families enabled the 36th Signal Battalion to provide pre-eminent communications support to our customers across the peninsula. The highlights of the last 90 days make obvious your unity and strength as an organization -- Exceptional communications support during Key Resolve '11; flawless execution of Soaring Dragon, Enlightened Dragon and Komodo Shield; first rate support for 8A Winter Freeze exercise, outstanding cultural awareness trips, receipt of Combined Federal Campaign awards and recognition by the 19th ESC Cdr, BG Harvey, for superior C4IS support. We also came together for Dragon Freeze II and III, the battalion's annual ski trips to High 1 Ski Resort. For those who participated, thank you for making these



**Sergeant 1st Class Hayes, his wife, and  
Spc. Rivera enjoy a day on the slopes**

events memorable experiences and for those who missed these events, mark your calendar for "Dragon Freeze IV" next winter. Special thanks go to the VFW Hill 303 Memorial Post 10033 for their support of the Young-Sang Children's Center. I commend everyone for making positive contributions to our battalion. Team work is our mantra!

During this quarter, the battalion received special recognition from the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) with the award of four 2010 Pacific Korea Outstanding Defense Information Systems Network (DISN) Facility of the Year awards. Special thanks go to the teams who operate and maintain our winning facilities:

- Category II, Transmission, Chinhae Technical Control (293rd Sig Co)
- Category V, Transmission, Walker Technical Control (169th Sig Co)
- Category VIb, DSN End Office, Camp Humphreys DSN (501st Sig Co)
- Category IX, Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS), Carroll SATCOM (293rd Sig Co)

At this time, I would like to take a moment to welcome all new personnel and families. You have joined a tremendous command and are part of a strong team. We value the knowledge and experience you bring to the 36th Signal Battalion. As you acclimatize to life in the "Land of the Morning Calm" I encourage you to take time to get settled and learn your way around your new environment. Please complete all in-processing steps to ensure the best quality of work and personal life. Please ensure you complete the sponsorship survey at

<http://www.usfk.mil/usfk/roadcondition.aspx> and take time to learn about your Community Services as well as local customs and courtesies.

Please do not hesitate to ask any of us for help – One Team!

Spring is upon us. During the next quarter, we must begin to think about summer safety to prevent/mitigate hot weather injuries such as Heat Stroke, Heat Exhaustion and Dehydration. For more information, please take time to read the Battalion Summer Safety Campaign which touches on the effects and signs of hot weather injuries, summer driving and proper hot weather clothing/equipment. We all must remain alert to ensure the safety of our team.

The coming quarter brings several key leader transitions and training events. During the next quarter, Capt. Calder, Capt. Reinhardt and Capt. Staton depart after successful Company Command. Also in the quarter, I and Cmd Sgt. Maj. Mercado depart. In April, the 9th SC (A) IG will visit Korea and the battalion will conduct



**Mr. and Mrs. Locke spend time with  
children from Young-San Children's center**

Summer Safety Week; May brings the Land-WarNet Conference and the Signal Ball; and June closes with Dragon Shield and the Battalion Change of Command. During the quarter, I look forward to visiting units and bidding farewell to each of you.

To close I simply want to reiterate how proud I am to serve you as Commander of such an outstanding organization. I ask each of you to always think and act SAFELY, travel with your "Fire Team," be an alert "Pedestrian," and watch yourselves around alcohol, drugs and other harmful influences; treat family, friends and others with Dignity and Respect; and for Leaders to ensure end-of-week, "Under the Oak Tree," counseling is conducted. Who we are as individuals, and as an organization, is up to us – "If we can dream it, we can achieve it!" – Lets continue to reach for our highest potential and make our assignment in Korea, an experience of a lifetime. Please enjoy this quarters "Voice of the Dragon" newsletter.

**"Standard Bearers"**

*"The great leaders are like the best conductors - they reach beyond the notes to reach the magic in the players."*

**Blaine Lee**





# BN COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S MINUTE

Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, 36th Signal Battalion,  
Camp Walker, Daegu



**Harry Mercado**  
Command Sgt. Maj.,  
US Army

To the mighty "Standard Bearers," I will begin by thanking Lt. Col. Rosenstein and Chong for everything they have done for the Dragon Battalion. I could write an entire article on the numerous accomplishments, activities and fond memories during their tenure here in the best Signal Battalion in the United States Army. Sir, it has been a pleasure serving with you as your Cmd Sgt. Maj. Thank you for the mentorship and friendship along the way. The battalion will miss your outstanding leadership, coaching, teaching, training, and mentoring (CTTM), but Glenda and I will miss you both most. Officers like you do not come very often. Sir, you are

the most dedicated Officer I have ever served with and I wish you, Chong and the girls the very best, God Speed.

Team, it has been yet another outstanding quarter of numerous accomplishments. Key Resolve '11 was met head on with tremendous support from all Soldiers and civilians. Words of praise came from across the peninsula and all sister services which show that you have lived up to our motto "Standard Bearers." Executing a mission has a different meaning when a Soldier or civilian from the 36th Signal Battalion is executing; they are always setting the bar, and that bar is high. Thank you all very much.

This past quarter, we have said goodbye to two outstanding 1st Sergeants, 1st Sgt. Raymond T. Nauta (169th) and 1st Sgt. Christian Helmka (HHD). My deepest appreciation goes out to both of them and their families for serving the 36th Signal Battalion, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States of America. It is never easy when great Noncommissioned Officers depart. It is bitter, but with bitterness also comes sweetness. I welcome 1st Sgt. Walter L. Branyan (169th) and 1st Sgt. Willard Cavitt (HHD) to the team. Additionally, I send a warm welcome to the numerous Soldiers, civilians and families arriving to the ROK.

Soldiers continue to be challenged realistically during numerous training events. The past quarter saw outstanding training during Soaring Dragon, Dragon week, Combatives, Fiber Splicing, Komodo Shield, and Eagle Strike to mention a few. I am pleased to see that Soldiers and families continue to enjoy their off duty time getting out and seeing the beautiful ROK. I challenge you all to continue your sightseeing and Cultural Trips; these memories will last a life time.

The warm weather is approaching soon. We must stay vigilant to the changes in the ROK. The Battalion's Summer Safety Campaign will assist in meeting our training requirements. We never stop training, even for changing seasonal weather; cold, hot or wet. Taking care of each other must remain our number one priority. As the weather becomes hot and humid, hydration (H<sub>2</sub>O) and proper nutrition are key to staying safe. Those new to the ROK must also learn of the monsoon season. A few inches of water on the roadway may be deceiving to the eye. The force of running water on roadways can be very dangerous. I know leaders at all levels will continue to enforce safety across the board.

As the Battalion transitions to a new Battalion Commander on June 17, 2011, I know you will all continue to do great things. I am proud everyday to say, I am a member of the 36th Signal Battalion, "Standard Bearers" thank you all for making me proud in every endeavor.



**Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado takes the guidon from Sgt. 1st Class Christian Helmka during the HHD change of responsibility**



**Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado and 1st Sgt. Raymond Nauta pose after the 169th Signal Company change of Responsibility**

"Dragon 7"





**Jared L. Mosby**  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commander

Greetings Team Lightning! Each day, I notice the outstanding teamwork and commitment to excellence that you all display. Our teamwork has enabled us to successfully accomplish our mission during all operations.

I am proud of all the hard work you have put forth in preparing for Key Resolve 11. Thanks to your efforts, our Battalion completed all exercise requirements to standard.

I would also like to thank Spc. Bryant, Spc. Tankard, and Sonja Hugo for participating in the Black History month celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Hill Top Club, Camp Walker. Your poetry and speeches inspired everyone attending.

Thank you for participating in the K9 demonstration; everyone who came to the event had the unique opportunity to learn how the canines are trained and assist the Camp Walker Military Police in apprehending uncooperative suspects. I also want to give kudos to all who were brave enough to don the dog protection suit and experience an attack by the canine on mission to apprehend a suspect. Without question, you all displayed incredible personal courage.

Special congratulations go to our new parents! Spc. Aaron Bailey and wife, Jamara, recently gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, James. Congratulations also go to Sgt. Santino Saldate for re-enlisting. Thank you for your decision to continue to serve your country.



This quarter, we said goodbye to some outstanding Soldiers: Sgt. 1st Class Stone, Staff Sgt. Becker, Spc Stewart, and Sgt. Chavez will be missed by everyone. We could not have accomplished our mission without them. We also would like to welcome Chap. (Capt.) Carson, Sgt. 1st Class Cavitt, Sgt. 1st Class Lewellen, Sgt. 1st Class Britton, Staff Sgt. Pinner, and Sgt. Kornacki to the Lightning team. I would also like to congratulate Sgt. 1st Class Cavitt for being appointed as the new HHD 1st Sergeant. We all look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

Next quarter, we all look forward to new challenges. In addition to our daily duties, we will have the opportunity to participate in Enlightened Dragon, KATUSA Friendship Week, and Dragon Shield.

With spring rapidly approaching, it is important that we all take the proper steps to prepare for the warmer weather. Leaders should constantly talk with Soldiers about appropriate safety measures.

Thank you again for your service to this company and continue to maintain your high standards. We lead the 36th Signal Battalion!

## SIGNAL SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN MOUT TRAINING

*By: Pfc. Christopher Cobern*



In February, the 501st Signal Company supported a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training exercise hosted by the 557th Military Police (MP) Company. The signal Soldiers, who aren't afforded as much opportunity to conduct such combat training, were more than enthusiastic with the opportunity. The MPs provided protective equipment, paintball guns and intensive one-on-one training in room clearing procedures, urban defensive tactics and close quarter assault tactics.

Master Sgt. Bernell Zorn, 557th MP Company, explained the concept of the training, "In today's operational climate, MOUT training is extremely important, but we rarely get to conduct it. Training with paintball

guns not only allows us to train on something important and somewhat rare, but it's also pretty fun."

The exercise was both fun and informative. The MPs designed scenarios which required Soldiers to react to real world urban environment, composed of a mixture of combat and non-combat situations. The training mirrored the dynamic aspects of real world urban combat. The signal Soldiers, who did not have the combat training to match the MP's, quickly realized that even a novice adversary is a lethal threat given the correct conditions; which became apparent when the signal Soldiers took the role of the opposing force. Scenario after scenario, the MPs would storm the building, attempting to quickly overwhelm the enemy and defuse the situation at hand. The scenarios were challenging, each required the combined use of knowledge, reflexes, decision making and training. The smallest mistakes were often "lethal." Even though they weren't trained to be an enemy, the 501st Signal Company Soldiers made sure that the MP's skills were truly put to the test. Pfc. Kenneth Vincent remarked, "I had fun training with them [the MPs], I learned a lot just from observing them. The way they entered rooms, reacted to contact, and communicated with each other was a learning experience in itself."







# TITAN'S CORNER

14th Signal Detachment, Camp Walker, Daegu



**Brittanè Staton**  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commander

Greetings Titan family! It is always a pleasure to express how proud I am of the 14th Signal Detachment and our accomplishments. This quarter, we supported many events to include the Martin Luther King Poetry Night, Dragon Freeze II and III, Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Awards Ceremony, Battalion Command Inspection Program (CIP), and Key Resolve '11. Even with all of these events occurring, our Soldiers and leaders remain focused on the unit's mission, to provide

COMSEC management/maintenance support for the Korean peninsula.

14th Signal Detachment held Martin Luther King Poetry Night that was held at the Hilltop Club at Camp Walker in Area IV that allowed Soldiers to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reminding people of the civil rights leader and his message of equal rights and peace for all. The event was filled with singers, poets, and dancers who honored Dr. King's legacy.

Our Soldiers were also afforded the opportunity to participate in Dragon Freeze II and III. This was a Battalion organized ski trip designed to give Soldiers an opportunity to ski one of the best ski resorts Korea has to offer. It was a time of great camaraderie and laughter.

Every year, we have CFC representatives reach out to help make a difference in someone's life. This year was no different as 14th North won Platinum recognition for their outstanding contributions to making this one of the most successful charity fundraiser on the Korean peninsula.

The Titans showed their true "Titan Spirit" by going above and beyond during the Battalion Command Inspection Program. Many long hours were put in and the efforts of all were confirmed by the results. Many of our junior Soldiers took on the additional responsibilities during the inspection and executed flawlessly. Some of our programs totally exceeded their previous inspections; this is what the Titan family is all about. Special kudos to all who helped make our CIP a success.

14th Signal Detachment may be small in numbers but our mission still remains the same: to support the entire Korean peninsula with COMSEC management/maintenance support. This is a nonstop/no-fail mission. "Thank You" to our families for supporting their Soldiers both in Korea and back in the States. All the love and support you give make our day-to-day mission enjoyable and less stressful.



**Capt. Staton reenlists Sgt. Simmons in front of the Detachment Hqs**

## PHYSICAL READINESS TRAINING

*By: 2nd Lt. Sarah Rainville*



Army physical fitness training is revolutionizing Army physical fitness into a more combat effective fitness program. The new program, Physical Readiness Training (PRT), is currently being tested throughout the Army with plans of implementation in the next fiscal year. PRT is the first change to the

Army Physical Fitness test since its inception in 1980. The new PRT test is centered on five events: 60 yard shuttle run, 1 minute rower, standing long jump, 1 minute pushups and a 1 and a 1/2 mile run. The new test is based on a gender neutral scoring

system. PRT focuses on functional fitness and how well prepared Soldiers are to perform their duties.

Recently, Headquarters and headquarters detachment implemented PRT during daily physical training. 1st Sgt. Willard Cavitt implemented the new program shortly after his arrival. Soldiers throughout the company have mixed feelings on the results the new program will bring. Pvt. William Payne commented on the new HHD PRT program, "The concept of PRT is a welcome adjustment to my daily PT routine, it's certainly a change from the usual push up, sit up, and run." Pfc. Jeffrey Monsalud stated, "I don't know if the new PT will help me improve my PT score, but I am willing to give anything a try." While results remain to be seen, the new PRT is here to stay and HHD is leading the way.





**Brock Peters**  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commander

Hello and best wishes to all of the Soldiers, civilians, family members, and friends of the 169th Signal Company! I want to personally thank all of you for making this a successful and memorable quarter. Everyone has contributed to the continued success of the company and I appreciate your dedication to excellence. Our Technical Control Facility at Camp Walker is a shining example of excellence; Soldiers and Korean Nationals worked together to win the Defense

#### Information

Systems Agency (DISA) 2010 Korea Defense Information Systems Network (DISN) Facility of the Year award for Category V (Transmission). Your outstanding teamwork is an example of what we can accomplish together. Great job!

Working together improves our effectiveness in accomplishing our mission. Our trip to the Suwon Folk Village provided everyone with a greater appreciation of Korea's rich history and culture. Cultural trips serve to strengthen our camaraderie and unite us in our shared goal of protecting the Korean peninsula. I hope everyone enjoyed this memorable experience and I look forward to our future cultural trips.

Many Soldiers and DA Civilians had the opportunity to enjoy another journey on Dragon Freeze II and III, to the High 1 Ski Resort, sponsored by the Battalion. These great events also strengthened our team. Skiing, snowboarding, and socializing together was a great way to have fun in a safe environment. Whatever the activity, safety must never be neglected. As the

weather begins to change, we have to be prepared to leave the cold behind and contend with the summer heat. With spring upon us, we will soon conduct the Summer Safety campaign to raise awareness relating to heat injuries and other summer hazards. While on the topic of safety, I want to thank all of you for staying safe as we successfully executed Key Resolve '11, which is an exercise that spans the Korean Theater. All of your hard work and dedication resulted in superior communications support that enabled the United States Forces Korea (USFK) and Eighth Army (8A) to effectively command and control their forces. Every leader I spoke with praised your performance - I am very proud to be your commander!

As the commander of this great company, one of the many things I am also proud of is our unit Family Readiness Group (FRG). Please assist me in welcoming Mrs. Melanie Barrow as our new FRG leader! She is sincerely motivated to assist families and has several ideas for future FRG events. Please also join me in thanking the outgoing FRG leader, Mrs. Lexie Miracle, for all her dedicated service - we will miss you! I would be remiss if I also did not mention 1st Sgt. Raymond Nauta as he departed the unit to his next assignment at Fort Hood, Texas. 1st Sgt.

Nauta was not only an amazing 1st Sgt., but he was also an advisor that I could lean on for advice and mentorship. I am confident that our new 1st Sgt., 1st Sgt. Walter Branyan, will continue to move the company forward - welcome to 169! Last, but certainly not least, I would like to welcome our newest member to the company; Kelsey Murphy was born on 15 March 2011 weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. to Spc. Jason Murphy and Pfc. Candice Murphy. Congratulations!



**Soldiers experience the traditional  
Korean justice system at Suwon Folk Village**



In March, Soldiers and family members from HHD, 36th Signal Battalion, participated in a cultural tour of Seoul. Throughout the day, the Soldiers visited Gyeongbok Palace, the National Folk Museum, the Marcopolo Skyview Tower, Samsung D'Light exhibit, the Itaewon shopping district, the United States Embassy, and participated in a kimchi making class led by professional chefs.







**Spencer Calder**  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commander

Soldiers and families of the 293rd Signal Company, I feel a bitter sweet mix of emotions as I write this to you. I have completed my tour as your commander, a feat solely contingent on your help, and will be moving on to DISA Pacific, Fort Shafter, Hawaii. My command has encompassed many events ranging from those instilling pride in each and every Soldier, to the deep heartfelt loss of a comrade over one year ago. You and your peers have ensured this company has made a steady climb to excellence and I know you will keep that momentum moving into the future. Although we have already accomplished much this year, 293rd Signal Company still has many more opportunities to excel.

Upcoming in the 3rd Quarter we have two performance evaluations for the Camp Carroll Technical Control Facilities; two excellent opportunities to win more acclaim within the brigade and once again prove we are the pre-eminent telecommunications providers on this peninsula. We also have the Korea LandWarNet conference which is one of the best chances to extend your professional social network. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to continue to support the garrison as you have done so well in the past with intramural sports.

Assuming command of the 293rd Signal Company on April 1, 2011 is Capt. Joseph Agius, a personal friend and an exceptional leader, who will take you all to new heights of excellence and continue your trend of dominating any field in which you compete. I have no doubt in my heart of hearts that you are in good hands moving forward and I know you will continue to excel in all endeavors you attempt; you are after all the 293rd Signal Company.



**293rd rocks the BOSS 5k**

## SIGNAL COMPANY IMPROVES READINESS THROUGH COMBATIVES TRAINING

*By: Pfc. Seth Wege*



**Pfc. Buckmire executes the straight arm bar**

On 28 January 2011 the 501st Signal Company hosted Combatives Level 1 certification training at the Camp Humphreys Super Gym. 17 Soldiers from 501st Signal Company; Alpha Company, 304th Signal Battalion; and 602nd Combat Service Support Group were certified. The certification class was led by 2nd Lt. Luis Garay and Staff Sgt. Stephen Cole from

not only learned how to focus their effort during a fight, but they also overcame the fear of pain in order to win the fight; possibly the difference between life and death in a real-world scenario.

Despite the best efforts of the instructors, everybody that began the clinch drill was able to complete it. Physically, most students felt some pain although none of them quit or gave-up and all were able to hold their heads high knowing they had accomplished something that many people never have the courage to even attempt. During the final exam, students demonstrated their knowledge and comprehension of Level 1 Combatives. Each Soldier was asked to teach step-by-step 10 of the 19 techniques taught throughout the week. Upon completion, 17 Soldiers received Level 1 Combatives certification and a pat on the back for great initiative and enthusiasm. When asked how he thought the class went, 2nd Lt. Luis Garay said, "Great improvement was shown between day one and day five in everybody's ability to handle somebody on the ground, without fear." Spc. Hart, an observer and assistant instructor said, "I think the Combatives course was very well constructed and that instructors did an outstanding job."



**Soldiers are instructed on correct combatives form**

the 501st Signal Company.

The Level 1 Combatives course consisted of intense physical activity spanning more than eight hours per day. After three days of watching and practicing basic moves to instill muscle memory, the dreaded "clinch" drill came. During the clinch drill, Combatives Level 2 certified personnel assisted students as sparring partners. Instructors were allowed to strike as many times as they chose, while the students attempted to achieve the "clinch" or get themselves into a position where they could, not only avoid being pinned, but also take their opponent to the ground and gain the dominant position. This drill proved challenging to most students, and painful for some, but rewarding for all. The students







# STRYKE'S CORNER

501st Signal Company, Camp Humphreys, Pyeongtaek, Korea



**Anthony Reinhardt**  
Capt., Signal Corps  
Commander

Soldiers, families, and friends of the 501st Signal Company, during the last three months we have continued to perform above and beyond expectations. February was a particularly busy month for the company with 16 Soldiers participating in Komodo Shield, a battalion exercise that trains Soldiers to defend critical communication sites on Camp Humphreys in the event of an attack. The following week, the company went on its quarterly cultural trip to the Demilitarized Zone on the border between North and South Korea. Soldiers and family members were given the opportunity to see first hand the Joint Security Area, where US and ROK Soldiers monitor North Korean forces. The company will continue to take cultural trips every quarter and I encourage all Soldiers and family members to attend. The trips are always interesting and fun.

In late February and early March, the company participated in Key Resolve '11. During this exercise, the 501st Signal Company was responsible for the exercise network in Area III and at the Osan Air Base Hardened Theater Air Control Center. The 501st excelled in its support mission due to the hard work and diligence of everyone involved. I would like to personally thank every Soldier, KA TUSA, and Civilians for our success during the exercise.

Upcoming events for the 501st Signal Company include the Change of Command with Capt. Jean Rivera on April 8th, a Spiritual Fitness event conducted by Chaplain Carson, and the monthly FRG meetings which are on the last Thursday of each month. All family members are encouraged to attend these events. The spiritual fitness event will take place an hour away from Camp Humphreys on a beautiful beach; it should be a fun experience for all involved. The FRG meetings are the place to get the latest information concerning the 501st; we invite all members of the 501st team to attend.

Unfortunately, this will be my last newsletter as the 501st Signal Company Commander. I will be stepping down as commander on April 8, 2011. It has been a wonderful two years as the commander of this company. My command has been successful because of the daily efforts of every member of the 501st team; thank you all very much and I hope to see you all again in the future.



**501st Soldiers pose in front of a rusted steam locomotive destroyed during the Korean War while touring the DMZ**

## → HELPING THE ARMY TAKE CARE OF ITS OWN

AER is a private nonprofit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. AER's sole mission is to help soldiers and their dependents. AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own". AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of soldiers.

AER funds are made available to commanders having AER Sections to provide emergency financial assistance to soldiers - active & retired - and their dependents when there is a valid need. AER funds made available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid need.

This year's AER campaign runs from March 1st thru May 15th, please contact your company representatives for more information or to make a contribution. The battalion AER representative, 2nd Lt. Sarah Rainville, can be contacted at [sarah.c.rainville@korea.army.mil](mailto:sarah.c.rainville@korea.army.mil).





# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

36th Signal Bn., Unit Ministry Team, Camp Walker, Daegu



**Christopher Carson**  
Chaplain, Capt.

I am very anxious to begin Soldier ministry as this is my first assignment out of my Career Course. I look forward to meeting Soldiers, their families and other unit personnel as I strive to support the unit's mission.

Since arriving in early January I have come to appreciate a great deal about Korea and serving as chaplain for the 36th Signal Battalion. In my brief time here I have traveled from the northern most point at the DMZ to the southern end of the peninsula in Chinhae Naval Base. I am drawn to the rugged and beautiful mountains which dominate the landscape and seem to jut up out of nowhere. In some ways they remind me of the Korean people – distinguished and disciplined.

I have also been impressed with the quality of Soldiers in the battalion. From the command leadership teams to the lowest ranking Soldier, members of the 36th

Signal Battalion are incredibly devoted to their jobs and demonstrate genuine concern for others.

Recently, I held a Single Soldier Retreat (18-20 Feb 11) in Yongsan and had the opportunity to get to know Soldiers from all of the companies and detachments. The teacher-to-student ratio promoted an openness and transparency among group members which enhanced learning. Students learned "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk." Soldiers learned the five areas they need to look for when dating and how these areas may determine the quality of their potential mate. They also studied the five bonding factors which create attachment between dating couples. Knowing these bonding dynamics helps single Soldiers to pace relationships and avoid getting too serious too soon.

Over the next year there will be more opportunities for single Soldiers to be trained on this very practical and relevant training. I will also be conducting retreats for couples where they will be given instruction and tools to strengthen their marriages. Whether you are single, married or are a geographical bachelor like me, I look forward to meeting you in the coming months!

In His Service, Chap. Carson



## 169TH CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

*By: Capt. Brock Peters*

On 16 February 2011 the 169th Signal Company conducted a "Change of Responsibility" ceremony at Camp Walker. With the symbolic passing of the guidon, the ceremony honored the outgoing 1st Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Raymond Nauta, and welcomed the incoming 1st Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Walter Branyan. The Battalion Command Sergeant Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, officiated the event. Staff Sgt. Trent Clark brought all NCOs to their feet for a spectacular rendition of the NCO Creed. Many Soldiers and civilians throughout the battalion were on hand to witness this special occasion. 1st Sgt. Nauta leaves the company with a legacy of caring leadership and many outstanding collective and individual achievements. We wish him the best as he moves on to his next assignment at Fort Hood, Texas. The company looks forward to working with 1st Sgt. Branyan who recently departed Fort Gordon, Georgia; he brings new ideas and a new perspective that will continue to improve the 169th Signal Company.



**The outgoing 1st Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Raymond Nauta, gives his farewell remarks**



**1st Sgt. Walter Branyan receives the guidon from Cmd Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado**



**Staff Sgt. Trent Clark recites the NCO Creed**







# KOREAN CULTURE

Prepared by ROKA Staff, 36th Signal Battalion



**Nam, In Su**  
**ROKA**  
Sgt. Maj.

안녕하세요 (Hello) from the ROKA Staff. Time flies so fast. It has been six months already since I took charge of the 36th Signal Battalion ROKA Staff. Thanks to you all, I was able to adapt quickly and easily to my new surroundings. I had time to explore Daegu and the surrounding areas and wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to some great mountains for hiking.

You may already know about Palgong Mountain. It stands at

north part of Daegu on the border between Daegu metropolitan city and North Gyeongsang province. Its peak is 1193 meters above sea level. The mountain is the site of a number of cultural and natural heritage sites. These include Buddhist shrines from the Silla period or later, including the large and active temple of Donghwa and the Gunwi Triad Buddha Grotto which is a Korean National Treasure 109. Natural treasures also include the standing stone of Gatbawi, so called from its resemblance to a traditional Korean horsehair hat, or gat. The hike through the dense forest and pure water stream is fairly easy. In Spring, you can see beautiful pink azalea flowers blossom. Currently,



**Beautiful foliage lines a valley along Palgong Mountain**

the highest peak called Birobong is inaccessible; however, you can go up to east and west mountain tops. The scenery from the top of the mountain is beautiful and breathtaking. I recommend the hike from the Payge temple ticket office to the Donghwa Temple. This course will take about five hours.



**Sgt. Maj. Nam and Sgt. 1st Class Helmka stop for a photo while hiking Geumo Mountain**

Another great mountain nearby is Geumo Mountain in Gumi. It is located about an hour's drive from Daegu and its peak is at 976 meters above sea level. The park has an amusement area called Geumo Land and the Geumo reservoir. There are several interesting sites on the mountain that include the Doesan Cave, Daehye Waterfall and HaeUn Bud-

dhist Temple which are easily reached by taking the cable car from the entrance of the park and a short hike. Salem, a remote mountain top microwave communications site managed by 293rd Signal Company, is one of the two mountain tops on this mountain; Kaldabong being the other. Hiking is a bit more challenging due to many rocks. It takes roughly four hours to hike up to Salem and an additional hour to Kaldabong.



**Traditional temple, Geumo Mountain**

And finally, if you feel hesitant to go to these two mountains because of their location, the nearest one right behind Camp Walker is Ap Mountain. Ap Mountain is considered to be the largest park in Daegu with many trails, Buddhist temples, a Korean War museum, and a gondola ride to the peak. It is about 4.4 kilometers from the base of the mountain to the top with inclines of 20 to 30 degrees in various locations. Ap Mountain is part of Biseul Mountain range so it offers many mountain tops. It only takes

about three hours for a round trip hike to the peak. Many Soldiers including the Battalion Executive Officer and Staff run through the Ap Mountain Park or to one of the peaks during physical training.

I went to Palgong and Geumo Mountains with 1st Sgt. Helmka and to Ap Mountain with Senior KATUSAs. The snowy landscape was very beautiful. We had a good time even though it was a bit cold. During the next quarter, blossoms of many beautiful flowers can be seen on these mountains. I truly believe that anyone will enjoy the beautiful scenery and fresh air on these mountains. Please, do not hesitate to contact me to suggest mountain climbing. I really want to go again, to any mountain, with anyone who offers me the opportunity. Thank you.



**Sgt. Maj. Nam and ROKA Staff KATUSAs atop Apsan Mountain**

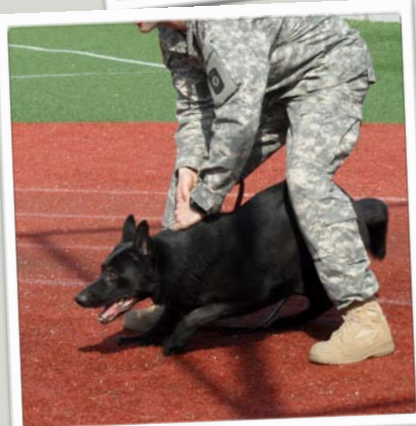




# K9

# DEMONSTRATION

By: Capt. Jared Mosby



On 24 February 2011, Soldiers from 36th Signal Battalion supported the Camp Walker K9 Command Unit during a live demonstration of their K9 capabilities. During the demonstration, Soldiers learned how canines are trained and how they assist Military Police.

Law enforcement has benefited from the organized use of canines since the early 1900's. European purebred dog clubs taught members of law enforcement how to develop and organize canine capabilities. By the 1930s, Germany, Belgium and England were implementing canine programs. The military introduced the use of canines to the United States and during World War II, Korea and Vietnam, canines performed as sentries, messengers, scouts and hazardous material detectors.

Today, "K-9" units are trained for rescue missions, deterring criminal behavior and detecting illegal substances. Police dogs often hunt for suspects and locate explosives, narcotics and mines among other things. At Camp Walker, canines are primarily used for illegal drug detection. "Our dogs know how to find illegal substances and respond quickly," said canine trainer Staff Sgt. John Darnell.

The event began with a live demonstration of how the dogs locate drugs with their keen sense of smell. "I could not believe how fast they work," said Pfc. Megan Henderson. Next, the canine handlers demonstrated how the dogs can intimidate uncooperative suspects. The event finally culminated with an opportunity for individual Soldiers to try on a dog protection suit and allow a canine to attack them. All of the Soldiers witnessed the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Mark Rosenstein, bravely don the suit and face the trained canine. "I would never ask anyone to try anything that I would not do," said Lt. Col. Rosenstein. Thanks to the expertise of the canine handlers, each brave Soldier survived their encounter. "This was a great experience, I have never seen anything like this 1st hand," said KATUSA Cpl. HyeonSeo Ahn.





# 36TH SIGNAL BATTALION

## *in Action*



Sgt. Woo makes a snowball to even the odds



KATUSAs enjoy the winter wonderland



Spc. Thurlow shows off her homemade Kimimichi during HHD's Culture trip



HHD Change of responsibility



Lt. Col. Rosenstein receives a care package while finishing up the battalion run



Newly promoted Sgt. 1st Class Kepler and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Mercado



HHD's introduction to PRT



Maj. Hugo lends a helping hand to a KATUSA at the range



Pfc. Kim takes aim



Maj. Gen. Napper and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Williams present Cdr coins to Bn Soldiers



Sgt. 1st Class Wyatt and her RNOSC team







## “Family Feud” *comes to Daegu*

By: Maj. Mikel Hugo

“100 people surveyed. Top five answers on the board. Here’s the question.” You’ve heard these words before watching Family Feud on TV. This time the questions came from the Hilltop Community Club on Camp Walker as families, kids and units competed in this classic game for AAFES and MWR gift certificates and most importantly, “Bragging Rights!”

Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado led 36th Signal Battalion’s team consisting of Chief Warrant Officer Johnson, 2nd Lt. Sarah Rainville, Capt. Joe Agius, Maj. Mikel Hugo and Sgt. Maj. Robert Brown. With friends and families cheering them on, Team 36 beat 19th ESC in three straight games earning \$150.00 dollars in unit funds and a day of paintball for 25 Soldiers at the Camp Carroll Paint Ball Range. Earlier in the night the Mercado family and the Hugo family teamed together to win the family portion of the event.

## SUWON FOLK VILLAGE CULTURAL TOUR

By: 2nd Lt. Christopher Bryan

On January 31, 2011 the Soldiers, and family members of the 169th Signal Company, conducted a cultural trip to the Suwon Folk Village. The cultural trip was planned to introduce the Soldiers to a historic Korean Village. The village was quite impressive and offered many insights into past Korean lifestyles. The village contained many huts, official buildings, museums, and many statues that portrayed what life was like in a Korean village many years ago. Many of the structures were examples of buildings dating back to 1000 B.C. or more. The Soldiers were introduced to ac-

that, in turn, slowly warms rooms. The guide allowed the Soldiers to go inside one of these rooms to feel for themselves the heat given off by the floor.

Further exploration of the village revealed a beautiful river running through the middle of the village. To cross the river you could choose to cross one of the many bridges or cross a stepping stone bridge that ran through the middle of the river. This method of crossing the river was quite interesting and fun at the same time. Prior to crossing the stone bridge, the Soldiers found a makeshift ice rink and glided across the ice on sleds.

Many of the Soldiers decided to have a race on these sleds; they used a type of ice pick that was about a foot and a half long to move across the ice. The tour guides also showed the Soldiers some interesting disciplinary tools that were used many years ago. One device was a chair that strapped

the feet down and used two poles to spread the legs out sideways in order to cause great pain.

Everyone had a lot of fun despite the cold weather. As the light faded on the way home to Camp Walker, the Officers, NCOs, Soldiers, and Family members of the 169th Signal Company reflected back on an enjoyable day learning about the spectacular history of Korea and its people.



tivities that went on within the village to include: pottery making, soy sauce making, children’s education, punishment techniques, basic games and outdoor activities. One of the most interesting portions of the trip was when the tour guide demonstrated an old Korean heating system. This is under the floor heating system is known as “ondol.” This heating system works by warming stones beneath the floor with a fire; these stones heat the floors of the house

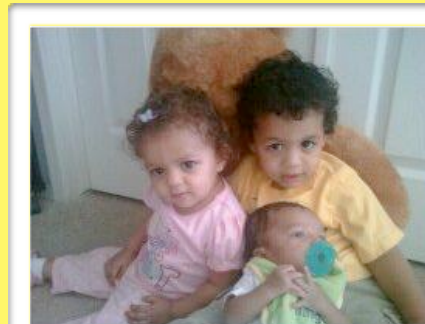
*We welcome the newest members  
to the Dragon Family.*

**169**

*Spc. Jason Murphy and  
Pfc. Candice Murphy  
hold their new born girl,  
Kelsey Murphy*

**HHD**

*Spc. Aaron Bailey’s  
children Isabella, Adam,  
and his new baby boy  
James Bradley Bailey*





# OPERATION "DRAGON FREEZE II"

By: 2nd Lt. Sarah Rainville

On January 17, 2011 over 70 Soldiers, civilians and family members from 36th Signal Battalion, Camp Walker, Daegu conducted Dragon Freeze II; a morale building event designed to relieve stress and enhance unit camaraderie. The event took Team Dragon three hours northeast of Daegu to the High1 Ski Resort in



**Maj. Mikel Hugo and his children Sanja, Emma and Charlie as they prepare to hit the slopes**

Gangwon Province. High1 is considered a world-class ski resort and is routinely voted most preferred ski area in Korea. High1 is comprised of three mountain peaks – Jisang Mountain (1,345 m), The Valley Top (1,376 m), and the Mountain Hub (1,250 m). The resort appeals to a wide range of ski and snowboard enthusiasts, offering ski runs that support both novice and expert skiers.

The layout of High1 mirrors many European ski resorts. High1 operates three gondola systems covering more than 6 kilometers, six high speed chair lifts and a T-bar system. The "Mountain Top", which is the last stop connecting the two highest peaks in the resort, houses a revolving restaurant called the "Top of the Top." The restaurant rotates once every 45 minutes to give a panoramic view of the surrounding mountain ranges. The resort also boasts a large lodge, casino and numerous hotels and condominiums.

Before dawn, Team Dragon departed for High1 ski resort from Camp Walker on a chartered bus coordinated by Capt. Joseph Agius. Upon arrival, personnel were issued lift tickets and equipment from a well organized and efficient resort staff. Once suited-up in all the appropriate gear, Team Dragon was released for

the day to conquer the slopes and enjoy time with family and friends.

By three o'clock in the afternoon, most skiers and snowboarders were ready to relax for the remainder of the day. They turned in their rental equipment and enjoyed the view from the warmth of the lodge. After an eventful day, Mr. Tyrome Myatt, Battalion S-2, relaxed and reflected in the lodge saying, "I started out snowboarding, switched to skiing and now I am going to spend the afternoon relaxing. My Family and I had a great day."

At five o'clock in the evening, Team Dragon departed High1 resort with another successful Dragon Freeze event under their belt. As the buses departed, laughter and discussion of the good times had by all faded into a much needed rest after a long day on the slopes. "It was my daughters' 1st time skiing, I didn't know if they were going to stick with it after the 1st run but they did. The whole Family had a great time; we will definitely participate in Dragon Freeze III" reflected Maj. Mikel Hugo. Dragon Freeze is an event highly recommended by all Soldiers, civilians and family members of 36th Signal Battalion.



**Top of the Top mountain top restaurant, High 1 Ski Resort**



**Taylor, Tyrome II, and Mr. Tyrome Myatt enjoy a break from the slopes**

## Tactical multiband man-pack radio AN/PRC 117 training

By: Sgt. 1st Class James Lewellen

On March 8, 2011, Sgt. 1st Class James Lewellen from the 36th Signal Battalion S-3 Operations took advantage of a requirement to provide Tactical Satellite (TACSAT) communications during the theater's joint and combined command post exercise Key Resolve 2011 by providing opportunity training to Soldiers on the installation, operations and maintenance of the AN/PRC 117 tactical multiband man-pack radio.

The AN/PRC-117 multiband man-pack radio, or multiband multi mission radio (MBMMR), is a man-portable, tactical software-defined combat-net radio covering the 30-512 megahertz frequency range. The radio is manufactured by Harris Corporation and has National Security Agency (NSA) certification for the transmission of voice and data traffic up to Top Secret. It is compatible with many radio systems the Army currently employs to include high frequency radios, SINCGARS and even satellite radios.

Sgt. 1st Class Lewellen, who previously served as an instructor at the Signal Center, Fort Gordon trained Soldiers on the proper installation and setup of the radio and AV-2040 antennae system which included training on proper azimuth and take-off angle alignments. For most of these Soldiers, this training was their 1st exposure to this equipment. This training improved Soldier-level tactics, techniques and procedures and improved the units overall mission readiness.



**Sgt. 1st Class James Lewellen sets up the AV-2040 antennae system as Soldiers watch and learn**



# HHD CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY CEREMONY

By: Capt. Jared Mosby



**Cmdt Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado thanks outgoing 1st Sgt. Christian Helmka for his service while passing the guidon to the incoming 1st Sgt. Willard Cavitt**

tion of his NCO career. 1st Sgt. Helmka will retire from the U.S. Army in June.

"I am proud to join this team in the greatest position a Soldier could ever have," said 1st Sgt. Willard Cavitt in his incoming speech. Throughout his 24 years in the Army, he has held NCO leadership positions at various signal units in the United States and abroad. Guests included Lt. Col. Mark Rosenstein, Commander of the 36th Signal Battalion and Lt. Col. Daniel Burnett, Director of the 6th Signal Center.

On 18 March 2011, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 36th Signal Battalion conducted a Change of Responsibility Ceremony on Kelly Field. In the ceremony, 1st Sgt. Christian Helmka transferred his duties as 1st Sergeant to 1st Sgt. Willard Cavitt.

"It was an honor for me to serve with you in the Republic of Korea," 1st Sgt. Helmka said in his outgoing remarks. After 20 years of outstanding service to the nation, the ceremony marked the culmina-



**1st Sgt. Willard Cavitt takes responsibility of HHD, 36th Signal Battalion**

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING POETRY NIGHT

By: 1st Sgt. Denise Shelton



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. poetry night performers are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the evening**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia and died on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His leadership was fundamental to the civil rights movement and ending legal segregation of African Americans across the United States. Dr. King rose to national prominence as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which promoted non-violent campaigns to achieve civil rights. In 1994, and to further commemorate a man who lived his life in service to others, Congress transformed the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday into a national day of community service.

The event at the Hilltop restaurant was filled with singers, poets, and dancers who focused on honoring Dr. King's legacy and vision of Justice for Everyone. Special thanks go out to the Area IV community for making the event a special night for all who attended.

On Tuesday January 11, 2011, the 36th Signal Battalion hosted the Area IV Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poetry Night. The celebration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated around the world, reminding people of the civil rights leader and his message of equal rights and peace for all. The event took place at the Hilltop restaurant on Camp Walker and was a "standing room" only event. Capt. Brittiane Staton and Staff Sgt. Matthew Seabert were the organizers of the 25th anniversary of the holiday recognizing one of America's greatest leaders.



**Soldiers, civilians and family members enjoying the Area IV Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poetry Night Program**





# DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (DCS) TRANSFORMATION

By: Capt. Brock Peters



ties to the 169th Signal Company in order to support an updated Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE), which directs the authorized personnel and equipment within Army units. With this change, the 169th Signal Company gained operational control over transmission and telephonic systems collocated with its company headquarters in Daegu. There is no doubt that this fundamental change to the structure of each unit offers a new set of challenges as well as opportunities.

For instance, while the 293rd Signal Company will continue to operate and maintain other DCS facilities, newly trans-

ferred facilities are entirely new to the 169th Signal Company and its leadership. These facilities require strict adherence to Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) directives and regulations. Fortunately, the Soldiers and civilians currently assigned to these facilities will remain in place, which will ensure a seamless operational transition. Nevertheless, the newly established 169th Signal Company DCS operations team has already learned several new processes, such as tracking and resolving Corrective Action Reports (CARs) that highlight DISA deficiencies within DCS facilities.

Looking towards the future, this transformation will improve operational command and control of signal support across the battalion's 38,250 square mile area of responsibility. Without question, this transformation would not be possible without the combined effort and professionalism of the Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and Korean Nationals who successfully implemented this transformation. Change is good; the glass is half full.

“There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.”

Niccolo Machiavelli

## 2010 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

By: 2nd Lt. Sarah Rainville

On February 10, 2011, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Overseas held its annual recognition ceremony for contributors throughout the Korean peninsula. The CFC began in the early 1960's to coordinate the fundraising effort of various charitable organizations so that Federal employees would only be solicited once and have the opportunity to use payroll deductions. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost

efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. The 2010 campaign was comprised of over 2,300 charities.

The 2010 overseas campaign was held from 4 October 2010 thru 15 December 2010. This year's ceremony recognized organizations for bronze (\$60 average contribution per potential contributor and/or 40% participation), silver (\$90 average contribution per potential contributor and/or 50% participation), gold (\$120 average contribution per potential contributor and/or 60% participation), and platinum level (\$200 average contribution per potential contributor and/or 85% participation contributions). Awards were presented by Brig. Gen. David G. Fox, Commanding General of the Installation Management Command Korea Region, Ms. Victoria Adams, Director of CFC Overseas, and Ms. Franciela Itula, CFC Pacific Command Coordinator. 14th Signal Detachment North and 293rd Signal Company earned platinum level recognition. 14th

Signal Detachment North contributed \$96.00 with 100% participation. 293rd Signal Company contributed \$8,557.00, an average of \$135.82 per potential contributor, with 100% participation. Although not formally recognized the remaining companies also participated in the campaign. Together the 36th Signal Battalion contributed a total of \$14,662.50 toward this year's campaign. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who participated.



**293rd Signal Company receives platinum level recognition for their participation in the 2010 CFC campaign. From Left to right: Capt. Spencer Calder, Brig. Gen. David Fox, Sgt. James Williams, Ms. Victoria Adams**



**14th Signal Detachment receives platinum level recognition for their participation in the 2010 CFC campaign. From Left to right: 1SG Denise Shelton, Brig. Gen. David Fox, Capt. Brittiane Staton, Ms. Victoria Adams**



## KEEPING THE KIDS SMILING



**Mr. Richard Locke, President of VFW Post 10033, poses with children from the Young-Sang Children's Center**



**Mr. Jason Boire and Mr. Ray Garcia look on as children enjoy pizza and soda at the inspirational luncheon**



**VFW member, Mr. Chuck Ryan, with children from the Young-Sang Children's Center**

# Inspirational Luncheon

*By: Lt. Col. Mark Rosenstein*

On 19 February 2011 the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Hill 303 Memorial Post 10033 and members of the 36th Signal Battalion, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, DODEA-Daegu and USAG-Daegu hosted an inspirational luncheon for 55 children of the Young-Sang Children's Center located in Daegu, Korea. Post 10033 hosted the luncheon at the Children's Center with donated food items that included fruit, drinks, pizza and assorted candies. The children ranged in age from 4 to 18. Mr. Richard Locke, Post 10033 President, remarked, "Our members are proud to help local children's centers; events like this inspire everyone." Other members of the post included: Mr. Rey Garcia (Jr. Vice Commander), Mr. Jason Boire (Post Quartermaster), Mr. Jasper Sims (Post Trustee), Mr. John Brehend (Post Trustee), Mr. Chuck Ryan, Mr. Ron Coleman, Mr. Jay Langlois, Mr. Josue Morales and Mr. Brandon Gingrich. Along with these members, their spouses also helped to make the day special for the children. During the luncheon, several birthday's were celebrated which made the event even more special for several children, and Children's Center cadre. Mrs. So Yun Locke commented, "It's a great feeling giving something nice to so many wonderful children."

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) strives to do good things for deserving people; particularly veterans, their families, and their communities. From local grassroots ideas to national influence, we work every day to make a difference. It's our strength as an organization." The VFW is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers whose sole purpose is the care and concern for others. The VFW draws its strength through membership. The more members, the stronger the voice to initiate change and pass legislation that supports retired and active duty service members and their families. The VFW operates the National Home for Children in Grand Rapids Michigan, where all local posts donate time and money to ensure its success.

The Daegu VFW Hill 303 Memorial Post 10033 was established in September 1999. Its purpose is to provide community service work, support widows and orphans of fallen comrades, and to remember the dead and the sacrifice they gave to their country. The visit to Young-Sang Children's Center is one of the community service efforts that Daegu VFW Hill 303 Memorial Post 10033 provides. The post thanks each and every non-member and member who donated their time and effort in making the inspirational luncheon at the Children's Center a great success. VFW Post 10033 along with 36th Signal Battalion plan to host similar events in the future as well as events with other children's centers in the Daegu metropolitan area.

Anyone interested in joining the VFW Post 10033 should contact Mr. Richard Locke at DSN 764-5714.



**VFW members from 36th Signal Battalion**





# DINNER WITH THE COMMANDING GENERAL, USFK

By: 2nd Lt. Christopher Bryan



**U.S Military Academy graduates and Korean Cadets commemorate the joint dinner held on February 22, 2011 with the USFK Commander**

On February 22, 2011, recent graduates of West Point had the opportunity to have dinner with Gen. Walter L. Sharp, Commander of United Nations Command/ Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea at the Hilltop House, Yongsan, Korea. The dinner was in honor of the Korean Military Academy (KMA) senior cadets. Gen. Sharp invited three Army 2nd Lieutenants to the dinner to interact with the KMA cadets and share their experiences. The purpose of the dinner was to build camaraderie, friendship and strengthening Korean-American relations.

West Point and KMA cadets receive similar training prior to their commissioning. Both military institutions provide military training during the summer in addition to four years of academic, military and physical classes. Freshman cadets in both programs have unique nicknames; Korean cadets are called "moles," while West Point cadets are called "plebes." All of the Korean cadets must attend the Korean version of jump school. Their final jumps consist of one jump from a C-130, three jumps from a rotary-wing aircraft and one jump from a balloon. One Korean cadet noted, "The jump from the balloon was the most challenging because you slowly ascend before having to climb over the side to jump."

Prior to dinner, Gen. Sharp spoke about the achievements of the KMA cadets and their responsibilities as future leaders in the Republic of Korea Army. He also mentioned his hopes of a unified Korea within his time of service and the importance of the Korean-American alliance. He concluded with the USFK motto, "Katchi Kapshida," in which attending Republic of Korea personnel replied, "We Go Together." The dinner allowed U.S. officers and KMA cadets to develop an appreciation for each other's respective countries and military service.

## EAGLE STRIKE II

By: 2nd Lt. Sergey Petrosyants



On February 11, 2011, the 293rd Signal Company and 188th Military Police (MP) Company conducted Operation Eagle Strike II, a multi-tiered company level training event to exercise, maintain, and update standard operating procedures and emergency action plans for communications facilities throughout Area IV. This exercise incorporated a canine response team from the 188th MP Company to exercise emergency procedures from a possible bomb threat scenario.

Site security personnel from the 293rd Signal Company and teams from the 188th MP Company began the exercise with a canine assisted search of the perimeter of the Camp Carroll Defense Communications System (DCS) Technical Control Facility known as "Top site." The Canine team quickly identified a possible saboteur, detained him and ensured the site personnel took appropriate actions. Once the security force secured the area, 293rd Signal Company maintenance teams were able to drill through pertinent restoration actions and quickly re-establish site communications. Upon conclusion of the training, the 188th MP Company conducted demonstrations of their canine team and its ability to apprehend suspected saboteurs. In exchange, the 293rd Signal Company provided a site brief to the MPs on the capabilities of the Camp Carroll DCS facility and the significance of its defense.

The 293rd Signal Company conducts its triennial site certification capstone training event, Eagle Strike, with 1st responders from United States Army Garrison (USAG)-Daegu. The goal of Eagle Strike is to exercise each major facet of the unit's mission to Operate, Maintain and Defend (OM&D) its DCS facilities, allowing the Soldiers and Korean National employees who man the facilities to face unexpected and complex situations that prepare them to respond quickly and skillfully to situations that could encumber communications across the peninsula.



**MP Sgt. Bond and PFC Grijalva, 188th MP Company, conduct search of Camp Carroll Technical Control Facility**

**MP Canine detains the saboteur, PFC George Winman, 293rd Signal Company**





# UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS:

APRIL

293rd Change of Command (1st)  
Soaring Dragon (5th - 8th)  
501st Change of Command (8th)  
Car Maintenance Week (25th - 29th)  
Battalion FRG Steering Committee Meeting (15th)  
KATUSA/US Friendship Week (18th - 22nd)  
Strong Bonds (22nd - 25th)  
Summer Safety Week (25th - 29th)

MAY

Enlightened Dragon (2nd - 13th)  
Common Maintenance Week (9th - 19th)  
Courageous Channel (12th - 15th)  
Battalion Hail and Farewell (13th)  
Signal Ball (20th)  
USAG-D Open House (28th)

JUNE

Battalion Beach Bash (4th)  
Army Ball, Area IV (4th)  
Dragon Week (6th - 10th)  
Battalion Change of Command (17th)  
Dragon Shield (21st - 22nd)

# FAMILY HOLIDAY:

*Planning*

No School - Teacher Work Day (8th)  
Spring Break (11th - 15th)

Memorial Day (28 May - 31 Jun)

Last School Day (16th)



Thirty-six members of the Battalion contributed to the wood carving representation of the front of the Battalion coin proudly displayed in the headquarters fourier. The coin was carved by Mr. Yong Tal Pak from the Battalion Maintenance Support Team. It is dedicated to all Soldiers, KATUSAs, DA Civilians, and Korean Nationals past, present, and future who have, and continue to, bring great credit upon the 36th Signal Battalion.